

**HIS HIGHNESSE
PRINCE RUPERTS**

Raising of the Siege at Newark upon

TRENT, March 21. 1643.

Written by an eye Witnesse to a Person of Honour,

Right Honourable and my very good Lord,

His Highnesse Prince *Rupert* being at West-Chester upon Tuesday night, March the 12. received first of all his Majesties Commands to march with all speed to the relief of Newark, as then besieged by Sir *John Meldrum*. The Rebels Forces were supposed to be about foure thousand Foot, under five Regiments and foure Colours, with well towards two thousand Horse and Dragoons. Upon these summons his Highnesse next morning made hast to *Shrewsbury*, speeding away Major *Legge* (our Generall of the Ordnance) before, to chuse out so many commanded Musquetiers of the English of late come out of Ireland, as might well be spared out of that Garrison: these were 1000 Musquetiers of Colonel *Broughtons* and Colonel *Tilliers* Regiments, with 120 of Colonell Sir *Fulke Hunkes*, all these sent down the Severne met the Prince at Bridgenorth on Friday. Of Horse his Highnesse took along his own Troope and Regiment, with 150 of Major Generall Sir *John Hurries*, with these Forces we drew along three small field Pieces. At Woolverhampton next day was our little Army recruited by 100 Horse, and 200 Foot of Colonell *Lewesons*. On Munday night had we notice at Ashby de la Zouch, of 2200 Rebels under Sir *Edmond Huntap*, sent out by *Meldrum* to

afford

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passé

passe and bridge over the Sore, a mile from Loughborough in Lei-
 ceester-shire: their purpose was either to intercept Generall Major
 George Porter, or to prevent his joyning with my Lord of *Loughbo-
 rough*; for thither with foure Regiments of Horse, and a thousand
 commanded Musquetiers of my Lord of *Newcastles* men was M. *Por-
 ter* now come from about Newark, to hinder the Rebels further in-
 rodes into Leicestershire; daily slight skirmishes here passed; and
 had the Major Generals people been as valiant as himselfe, *Meldrum*
 had had occasion to chide his party for doing nothing. For not able
 to force the Passe, and hearing of my Lord of *Loughboroughs* draw-
 ing out, they stole away by noon light. Master Porter thus disenga-
 ged, was the next day (being Tuesday, March the 19; together with
 my Lord *Loughboroughs* Forces,) conjoynd with the Princes; that
 night we all quitted in a Close by Bingham, some eight miles
 from of Newark: about twone of the clocke (the Moone then well
 up) our Drummes beat, and we marched: hitherto had our Marches
 bene so speedy, as fame it selfe was prevented; for by *Meldrums*
 owne Letters, which (together with these two) the Prince intercept-
 ed the night before, your Longship may perceiue the Rebels had
 no more but an intended summons of Prince *Richards* coming: on
 this dayes march, his Highnesse had notice by his Espials, how the
 Rebels were busied all the morning in sending away their Can-
 nons, which proved no better then their drawing them off their Bar-
 reries into their chiefe Workes at the Spittle; or Excester house; a
 little more then Musquet shot from the Towne; for into that one
 quarter had they that morning drawne all their Regiments and Am-
 munition. His Highnesse, having intelligence of their amassing
 themselves into one Body, which he supposed a preparation to march
 off suddenly, advanced his Wan of Horse upon the spoile, to over-
 take them: the rest of our Horse had order to keep along with the
 Foot, Cannon and Ammunition: coming nere the Beacon hill, a
 mile short of Newark, we perceiued some House of the Enemies,
 who upon our approach drew downe the other side to their owne
 grosse;

grosse: ours, thus esie gaining the Hill increased his Highnesse naturall courage, upon his apprehension besides of having many advantages upon a retreating Enemy, whereupon, *Courage* says he, *Let's charge on Gods name with the Horse we have, and engage them till our Reare and Foot be marcht up to us*, trooping thus to the edge of the Hill, we perceived the most of the Enemies in Battalia (Horse and Foot) neare the Spittle: all, I meane, except foure great Bodies of Horse, who expected us at the descent of the Hill: the Prince thus ordered his owne few Forces, first himselfe and his own Troope of Life-guard, undertook to attaque that Body on the left hand: appointing my Lord *Loughboroughs* Troop to second him, and Colonel *Charles Gerards* Troop to be as a Reserve: a little on my Lords right hand the Prince his Regiment was cast out into five Divisions, two Troopes to each Division: in the first and very right hand of all were Captain *Gardiner* and Captain *Richardson* and next them Captain *Cob* and Captain *Martin*, then my Lord *Grandison* and Sir *Thomas Dallisson*, next them the Troops of Sir *Lewis Dives* and my Lord *Dillon*, Major *Legge* and Lieutenant-colonell *O-weller* Troops being next unto the Life-guards: this Regiment was seconded by Major General *Porters* Regiment. Our Field word was *King* and *Queen*, theirs *Religion*. The fight began about nine of the clock, and after a while grew sturdy, especially on our right Wing, the Rebels doubling their Files from three to six deep, and charged our two hundred Troops upon the Flanks so hard, that Captain *Marsine* came timely in to help to beat off the Rebels. The Prince himselfe having pierced deep into the Enemies, and being observed for his valour, was dangerously at once assaulted by three sturdy Rebels, whereof one fell by his Highnesses own sword, a second being pistoled by Mr *Marsine* one of his own Gentlemen: the third now ready to lay hand on the Princes collar, had it almost chapt off by Sir *William Neal*: his Highnesse thus disingaged, with a shot push in his scummet over Sir *Richard Crane* and his own Troop charged quite thorough that Body of Rebels, pursuing them in & out home to their very works at

the Spittle. Presently after this, his Highnesses Regiment with their seconds, likewise routed the three other Bodies, foure of the Troops charging even into the work, and bringing away a Captain prisoner: my Lord *Loughborough* also deported himselfe honourably, and when some of his thrunk, at the second charge himselfe rode back to Rally and bring them up again: Major Generall *Porter* charg'd with bravery enough in his own person, though some of his retired up the Hill in some hast and disorder. Colonell *Charles Gerard* (who never carried himselfe but gallantly) did here like himselfe: but by the fall of his horse, was bruised, shot in the arm, and taken prisoner.

After a while both sides began to rallie, and make ready for a second charge; ours to make the Impression, and theirs to receive it: and though for a good while they disputed it toughly, yet by fine force were they and all the rest driven quite out of the Field; not halfe of our Horse charging: for our Reare was not yet come up. Now fled the Enemy quite beyond their own Worke, Foot and cannon, at the Spittle, divers of them hasting by a Bridge of Boats over that branch of the Trent, into the Island: foure other Troopes, with as many Foot Captains, halted up to Muskam Bridge upon the other side the Island, and main stream of the River about three quarters of a mile; both from Newarke and the Spittle, here being out of Gun-shot, they staid till towards Evening, when breaking the Bridge behind them, & throwing one peece of Cannon into the Trent, they then runne home to Nottingham. In both these stiffe bouts, took we five Cornets, and about 90. Prisoners, whereof three Captains, some Gentlemen, three Cornets, besides other Officers, and two Cannoneers, one Cornet was taken by Sir *Richard Byron*.

And now, as if an universall Truce had bin agreed upon, there was some half houres silence; excepting that the Enemies Canonadoes (though with very little effect) disturbed it; for the Rebels Foot had not yet advanced; and their Horse, by this time had enough of it. As for the Prince he now staid for his Foot, and Rear of Horse, both left full two Miles behind; when our Van began to double their

March

March to overtake the Enemy. Anon came up our Foot, all that day commanded by Colonell *Tillier*: these resting themselves a while upon the Hill, the first Division, being part of those that came from Shrewesbury, were led onely by the Colonell. These marched down bravely in the face of the Enemy, hooting at their Cannon. These flanked with some Horse, were wheeled to the right, by and by, into a Medow. At their coming, the Rebels drew all their Horse and Foot within their Spittle work, whom when our men came against, both sides saluted one another at too far a distance, with a short Vollye. But Colonell *Tillier* was not to stay here, as being, by his Orders to March up to the very River side, to recover the Boar-bridge from the Enemy: But this being too well guarded, ours drew off quietly, making a stand without reach of Canon. In this time were divers more Bodies of Foot brought down into the Field, who charged up to the Enemies Works, and killed many, my Lord *Loughborough* being left upon the Hill for a Reserve.

Thus was the Valley bespread with our Battaglions: and in this posture stood the Princes Army. Sir *Richard Byren* Governour of Newark, likewise before this, had sent part of his Garrison (both Horse and Foot) into another ground on the Southeast side of the Towne. And by this time had the Prince notice given him by a Prisoner, and by one of theirs that came over to us, how the Rebels were so distressed for want of Victuals, that they were not able to live there two daies. Whereupon His Highnesse began to resolve upon other counsailes, esteeming it cheaper to block up their Trenches, then to storm them. And blockt up they were already, as being coopt up in a very narrow roome, no more then the backside of the Spittle, towards the River, besides which they were on all sides surrounded by our Fortes. On the Southside by the Town, on the East by the Prince, and on the North by Colonell *Tillier*. Into the Island on the West had the Prince sent 500 Horse, besides 200 of the Newarke Troopers. Thus the late Blockers found themselves now besieged, yea without much hope of suddaine relief, or safe means to salley.

for so well had the Prince ordered them, that had they sallied for
 shields, we had then fallen upon their first issuing out, both in Front
 and Flanks with our Army, and the Towne had charged them upon
 their Retreat: Had they offered to escape over their Boat-Bridge, ours
 in the Ile had disturbed their passing, and we entertained their com-
 ming over, yet which partsoever had first intended, we had bin able
 to beat the other off. By this time too had the Prince commanded Sir
 Richard Bryan with his own, and Sir George Byres Horse Regiments,
 with 800 of Sir John Digbys Foot to advance so high into the Island
 as to put in betwixt the Rebels two Bridges, by which interposition
 was all intercom for ever off, betwixt the Rebels their great Body at
 the Spittle, and those at Musham Bridge. Upon this, those eight
 Colours at the Bridge retreated, as is aforesaid. Under favour of
 these Town-forces too, was His Highnesse resolved to cast up a Rev-
 erbreach might betwixt the Bridges. But going now to view the
 Ground, the Rebels sent out a Trumpet to desire a Parlee. To make
 way for this, and the more to sweeten and oblige the Prince, had Sir
 John Mordaunt, some houres before, sent home Colonel Gell, yet
 upon the parole of a Soldier and a Gentleman, to remain himself a
 Prisoner, when ever he should be called. The Rebels having sent
 out to Parlee, quize their Bridge, which his Highnesse presently pos-
 sessed by a hundred Musqueteers.

For the Parlee, His Highnesse appointed Sir Anthonie Cholly, Cap-
 taine of his Life-guards, with Sir William Neale Scout-Master Gene-
 rall: the Rebels sending Sir Miles Hobard, and Sir John Mordaunt in
 to the Town. Now was though it be that the Enemies were distress-
 sed, yet very wise Generalls have not thought it safe to make such
 men desperate: besides which being now in the midst of their owne
 Garrison, they might possibly be relieved. And to confesse the truth,
 our Horses were so over-matched, and our foot so beaten off Loggs,
 that we found ourselves less able for the present for them. In very
 truth too, the Rebels were more then we believed for these reasons,
 and for that (as by these intercepted Letters it appears) My Lord

Fairfax

Purfax, and his Sonne Sir *Thomas*, being both commanded by the Close Committee to march, other places might ere long have need of His presence: His Highnesse (at length) condescended to these Articles, which besides they be both honourable and safe, were the same (for the generall) as our side had before gone out upon, when the Rebels tooke *Lincolne*: Of the Articles this (My Lord) is the Originall Copy.

Articles agreed upon 22. Martii by Sir *RICHARD CRANE* and Sir *WILLIAM NEALE*, Knights, on the part of His Highnesse Prince *ROBERT*: And Sir *Miles Hobart*, and Sir *John Palgrave*, on the part of Sir *John Hotham*, T. as followeth.

1. That all Match, Bullet, Powder, Canon, and all other fire Armes belonging to the Artillery be delivered.
2. That all Souldiers march away with their Swords by their sides, and Colours, and Drums.
3. That all Officers March out without molestation, with their Armes and Horses for themselves and Servants, and Bag and Puggage, Money, and whatsoever else doth truly belong to themselves.
4. That all Troopers and Dragoons March away with their Swords, Horse, and Colours.
5. That His Highnesse send a Convoy to protect us from any Injury two Miles from His utmost Quarters towards *Lincolne*.

Richard Crane.

Miles Hobart.

William Neale.

Lo. Palgrave.

But Besides these Conditions, His Highnesse, gave by Instructions: to His Commissioners, to insist upon a demand of some Prisoners: before taken, which was also granted: Hereupon next morning the Rebels marched out: but for the Horsemens carrying away their Arms, and others their Pikes, with more then was conditioned, our unruly

unruly Souldiers (especially those that had been so before used at
Lincolne by the Parliamentiers) taking this occasion to quarrel with
the Rebells, took more from them then by the Articles they should
have done. But for this were divers of them flased by the Prince,
and the Rebells Colours sent back unto them.

The Rebells thus gone, we had leasure to carry off their Arms and
Ammunition, consisting of betwixt three and foure thousand Mus-
quets, and a great quantity of Pikes and Pistolls, with the Cannon
they left behind them: of these we found Eleven fair Brasse Pieces:
one a Basiliske of Hull, foure yards long, shooting 22 Ball: one of
their Ordnance was found at Muskam Bridge, and the Carriage of
e'other. Two goodly Morrar-pieces were also left us, the least shoot-
ing 80. pound Granado, and the other twelve stone and eight pound,
and all their Ammunition. The number of the slaine we know not;
but we thinke they lost towards nine score or two hundred, and we
about half so many slaine and wounded. Thus after just three weeks
Siege, was Newwarke happily relieved. Your Honour knowes the
high consequence of this Service. Severall particulars more, I leave
to this bearer, who very commendably sustained his part in it. His
Highnesse hath appointed a Thanksgiving for this on Sunday, by
which the World may see Him to be as Devout as Valiant.

William Nelsc.
To, Parlatve.

Richard Cunn.
Miles Hobart.

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